

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 4-6, 11 as follows. All claims in the application are being reproduced below in accordance with current U.S. Patent and Trademark Office requirements.

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus for folding a sheet by nipping the sheet taking a predetermined position in a convey direction as a fold and conveying the sheet by means of a pair of folding rollers, wherein at least one of the pair of folding rollers has a single large-diameter portion and small-diameter portions at both sides of the large-diameter portion, and the single large-diameter portion is provided within a convey range in a sheet width direction of a minimum size sheet foldable in the sheet folding apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the single large-diameter portion is provided at a sheet convey center portion of the roller.

3. (Previously Presented) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a width of the single large-diameter portion in the axis direction is substantially $\frac{1}{2}$ of a minimum width of a sheet size foldable in the sheet folding apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein another ~~the~~ single large-diameter portion of the roller is provided outside a width of a maximum-size sheet foldable in the ~~foldable~~ folding apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a predetermined gap is formed at the ~~a~~ small diameter portions ~~portion~~ between the pair of folding rollers.

6. (Currently Amended) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a predetermined gap is formed at the small diameter portions ~~portion~~ between the pair of folding rollers.

7. (Previously Presented) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined gap formed between the pair of folding rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed.

8. (Previously Presented) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined gap formed between the pair of folding rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed.

9. (Previously Presented) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the single large-diameter portion has a taper section.

10. (Previously Presented) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the large-diameter portion has a taper section.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus having image forming means for forming an image on a sheet, sheet conveying means for conveying the sheet on which the image is formed by said image forming means, and a sheet folding apparatus for folding the conveyed sheet, the sheet folding apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 and 12.

Please add Claim 12 as follows:

--12. (New) A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said pair of folding rollers comprise elastic members.--